IN THE CLAIMS:

1-31. (cancelled)

32. (new) A method for producing a charge image and an intermediate carrier of an electrophotographic printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

providing a character generator having a plurality of light sources arranged in at least one row in groups;

providing a separate functional unit for each light source group for control of the light sources, the functional unit having an input via which it can receive data and a clock signal and an output via which the functional unit can forward data and a clock signal to the functional unit that is subsequent in the row except for the last functional unit in the row;

connecting the functional unit with a central control unit, the functional unit also comprising a memory, an address decoder, an address via which it can be specifically activated, and a control unit;

sending data for storage in said memory of the respective functional unit using said address of the respective functional unit;

controlling the light sources of each group by said control unit assigned to the respective functional unit;

imaging the at least one row of light sources onto the intermediate carrier as an exposure line, the intermediate carrier being displaced substantially transverse to the exposure line relative to the character generator; and

selecting a temporal beginning of illumination phases of the groups of light sources by the respective functional unit receiving a respective start command from said central control unit and using said start command within the respective functional unit to individually initiate said temporal beginning of said respective group

of light sources such that deviations of the exposure line from a target line are minimized.

33. (new) A method according to claim 32 wherein the functional units have a system clock by which the input clock signal is reproduces.

34. (new) A method according to claim 32 in which the control units of the functional units control light source groups independently of a clock pulse that is predetermined by a line period provided for processing of a printed page.

35. (new) A method according to claim 32 in which as said memory in the functional unit volatile memory is provided in which said data are stored.

36. (new) A method according to claim 35 in which the data comprise print data for the segments, corresponding to the late source group, of a plurality of lines to be printed.

37. (new) A method according to claim 35 in which the data comprise a correction parameter for each light source of the group that represents its individual illumination intensity.

38. (new) A device for producing a charge image on an intermediate carrier of an electrophotographic printer or copiers, comprising:

a character generator that has a plurality of light sources arranged in at least one row in groups;

a separate functional unit for each light source group for controlling of the light sources;

the functional unit being connected with a central control unit, the functional unit comprising an input via which it can receive data and a clock signal and an output via which the functional unit can forward data and a clock signal to the functional unit that is subsequent in the row except for the last functional unit in the

row, a memory, an address decoder, an address via which the functional unit can be specifically activated, and a control unit;

said memory of the functional unit having stored therein data targeted by use of said address to said respective functional unit;

the light sources of each group being controlled by said control unit assigned to the respective functional unit;

the at least one light source row being imaged as an exposure line onto the intermediate carrier, and the intermediate carrier being displaced substantially transverse to the exposure line relative to the character generator; and

a temporal beginning of the illumination phases of groups of light sources being selectable by use of the functional unit which receives a respective start command from said central control unit and uses said start command within the functional unit to individually initiate said temporal beginning of each said respective group such that deviations of the exposure line from a target line are minimized.

39. (new) A system according to claim 38 wherein the functional units have a system clock by which the input clock signal is reproduced.

40. (new) A device according to claim 38 in which the control units of the functional units control the light source groups independently of a clock pulse that is predetermined by a line period provided for processing of the printed page.

41. (new) A device according to claim 38 in which as said memory data are stored in a volatile memory that is separately assigned of the functional unit.

42. (new) A device according to claim 41 in which the data comprise print data for the segments, corresponding to the light source group, of a plurality of lines to be printed.

43. (new) A device according to claim 41 in which the data comprises a correction parameter for each light source of the group that represents its individual intensity.

44. (new) A method for producing a charge image and an intermediate carrier of an electrophotographic printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

providing a character generator having a plurality of light sources arranged in at least one row in groups;

providing a separate functional unit for each light source group for control of the light sources, the functional unit having an input via which it can receive data and an output via which the functional unit can forward data to the functional unit that is subsequent in the row except for the last functional unit in the row;

connecting the functional unit with a central control unit, the functional unit also comprising a memory, an address decoder, an address via which it can be specifically activated, and a control unit;

sending data for storage in said memory of the respective functional unit using said address of the respective functional unit;

controlling the light sources of each group by said control unit assigned to the respective functional unit;

imaging the at least one row of light sources onto the intermediate carrier as an exposure line, the intermediate carrier being displaced substantially transverse to the exposure line relative to the character generator; and

selecting a temporal beginning of illumination phases of the groups of light sources by the respective functional unit receiving a respective start command from said central control unit and using said start command within the respective functional unit to individually initiate said temporal beginning of said respective group

of light sources such that deviations of the exposure line from a target line are minimized.

45. (new) A device for producing a charge image on an intermediate carrier of an electrophotographic printer or copiers, comprising:

a character generator that has a plurality of light sources arranged in at least one row in groups;

a separate functional unit for each light source group for controlling of the light sources;

the functional unit being connected with a central control unit, the functional unit comprising an input via which it can receive data and an output via which the functional unit can forward data to the functional unit that is subsequent in the row except for the last functional unit in the row, a memory, an address decoder, an address via which the functional unit can be specifically activated, and a control unit;

said memory of the functional unit having stored therein data targeted by use of said address to said respective functional unit;

the light sources of each group being controlled by said control unit assigned to the respective functional unit;

the at least one light source row being imaged as an exposure line onto the intermediate carrier, and the intermediate carrier being displaced substantially transverse to the exposure line relative to the character generator; and

a temporal beginning of the illumination phases of groups of light sources being selectable by use of the functional unit which receives a respective start command from said central control unit and uses said start command within the functional unit to individually initiate said temporal beginning of each said respective group such that deviations of the exposure line from a target line are minimized.